



EPI NEWS

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Leon County Health Department

■ Arthur P. Cooper

Administrator 487-3146

■ Marjorie Kirsch

Medical Director . . . 487-3162

■ Frankie Mathews

Nursing Director . . .487-3186

■ Alex Mahon

Environmental Hlth 487-3166

■ Jack Pittman

PH Preparedness . 487-3146

■ Loyce Hill

Communicable Dis487-3186

■ Rebecca D'Alessio

Epidemiology 487-3186



Main Clinic

2965 Municipal Way,
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Roberts and Stevens

1515 Old Bainbridge Road

Tallahassee, FL 32303

South Side

872 West Orange Avenue,
Tallahassee, FL 32310

Environmental Health

3401 West Tharpe Street,
Tallahassee FL 32304



For more surveillance
information, see the DOH

Web site at

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/
Environment/hsee/arbo/in](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm)

[dex.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm) or call the
Disease Outbreak

Information Hotline which
offers updates on medical
alert status and
surveillance at
888.880.5782



Hot Topics

October 29, 2004

RE: Flu Vaccine

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Leon County Health Department has received a **limited** supply of flu vaccine for persons in high-risk groups in our community. We will begin making **appointments by telephone on Monday, November 1; walk-in appointments will not be available.**

We will screen callers for risk factors using the CDC criteria:

Adults aged 65 years and older;

Persons 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions including diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, lung disease, asthma, sickle cell disease and other blood disorders;

Individuals with weakened immune systems due to: HIV/AIDS, cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs, or long-term treatment with steroids;

All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;

Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;

Health care workers involved in direct patient care;

Children 6-23 months of age;

Children aged 6 months - 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;

Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than six months old.

Individuals in the high-risk groups may contact the Leon County Health Department at

487-3186 to schedule a flu vaccine appointment. Medicare recipients who are 65 years of age and older do not have to pay for the flu vaccine. The fee for other adults is \$12.00.

Information on influenza and the vaccine shortage is available at www.cdc.gov/flu/. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Kirsch MD

Medical Director

Leon County Health Department

487-3162 or cell 933-4750

For more surveillance information, see the DOH Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm> or call the Disease Outbreak Information Hotline which offers updates on medical alert status and surveillance at 888.880.5782

EPI Reporting

What to report?

Suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases and outbreaks. List of the diseases can be obtained from the Leon County Health Department by calling **(850) 488-3186** or http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_3.pdf

Why Report?

Health care practitioners are very busy people and an individual practitioner may not know what is happening in their community at all times. Reporting of communicable disease makes it possible to prevent further spread of the disease.

Who should report?

All licensed health care practitioner.

When should the report be made?

These reports should be made promptly within 72 hours, except in case of a disease that may need an immediate intervention i.e. those have **(T)** or phone, or an outbreak, clusters or grouping, which should be reported immediately.

Where to report?

Direct further inquiry to the Leon County Health Department Epidemiology, Nursing Program Specialist, **Rebecca D'Alessio**, at 487-3186.





Community Hotline

Why is there a shortfall in flu vaccine for this season?

On October 5, 2004, CDC was notified by Chiron Corporation that none of its influenza vaccine (Fluvirin®) would be available for distribution in the United States for the 2004–05 influenza season. The company indicated that the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in the United Kingdom, where Chiron's Fluvirin vaccine is produced, has suspended the company's license to manufacture Fluvirin vaccine in its Liverpool facility for 3 months, preventing any release of this vaccine for this influenza season. This action will reduce by approximately one half the expected supply of trivalent inactivated vaccine (flu shot) available in the United States for the 2004–05 influenza season.



What Else Can You Do to Prevent the Spread of Flu?

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands
- Put your used tissue in the waste basket
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items
- Wash your hands regularly/often with soap and water for 20 seconds or cleanse with alcohol-based hand cleaner if soap and water are not available
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or with others when you are sick
- Stay home from work, school, public places, and crowds when you are sick
- Keep sick children home
- Remember the basics of good health:
 - Get plenty of rest
 - Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet
 - Drink plenty of fluids
 - Don't smoke!
 - Don't drink alcohol!
 - Keep your stress level as low as possible

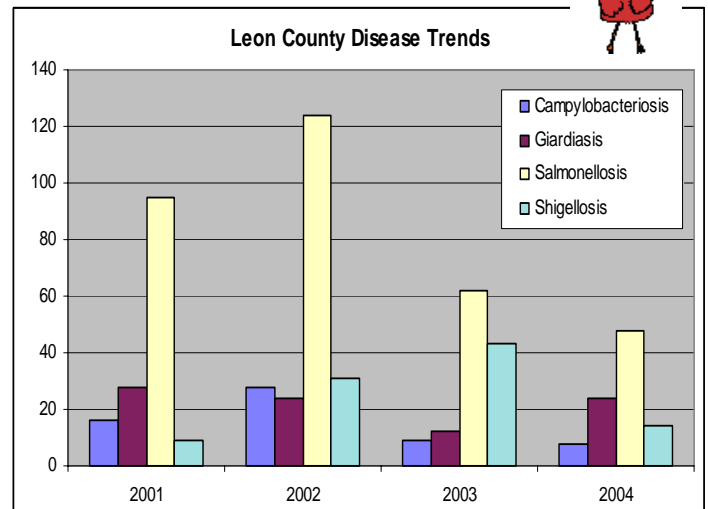


What the Leon County Health Department is doing regarding Flu for the good of the Community

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health are working together to obtain a supply of flu vaccine, however, Leon County Health Department is taking a proactive approach by sending preventive health message to the Leon County Community.

The Leon County Health Department Epidemiology Division and the Nursing Division are working together to get the **"Good Health Habits for Added Protection Against the Flu"** message to the public. Leon County Health Department's answering service and internet site now contain prevention health message and tips on how to stay health during the flu season. Flu pamphlets and posters containing basic flu information and preventive health tips have been developed and are being distributed to local Day Care Centers, Nursing Homes, Senior Citizen Center, Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Assistant Living Facilities, and Hospitals. A hand washing class was provided to Day Care Center directors and administrations and posters and pamphlets were distributed to the participants. A television interview to discuss the flu information and shortage was completed. A Public Service Announce (PSA) and a Medical Provider letter will be implemented to provide information concerning the availability of a limited supply of flu vaccine and the client criteria for flu vaccine.

Holiday Guide for Good Eating



When should you wash your hands?

You should wash your hands often. Probably more often than you do now because you can't see germs with the naked eye or smell them, so you do not really know where they are hiding.



It is especially important to wash your hands

- Before, during, and after you prepare food
- Before you eat, and after you use the bathroom
- After handling animals or animal waste
- When your hands are dirty, and
- More frequently when someone in your home is sick.